

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 OES-06 PRS-01 L-03 SS-15 /045 W

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R 011631Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

S E C R E T MOSCOW 15552

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR OES/APT GANLEY

FOR EUR/SOV WILKINSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: TBIO, TSPA, UR, US

SUBJ: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: SPACE BIOLOGY (04.05) USDEL VISIT
SEPTEMBER 15-30

REF: MOSCOW 15368

1. SUMMARY. THE SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE DELEGATION VISIT 15-30 SEPTEMBER WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN AN AREA WHERE U.S. AND SOVIET RESEARCH INTERESTS STRONGLY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER. IT APPEARS THE SOVIETS ARE PLANNING MANNED BIOLOGICAL SPACE EXPERIMENTS IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF COSMOS FLIGHTS, AND THE FOCUS OF THE INTEREST WILL BE ON THE EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM WEIGHTLESSNESS. THE DISCUSSIONS ALSO PROVIDED AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON THE FLIGHT OF SOYUZ 21. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING THE YEREVAN MEETING, DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS RELEASE PROVIDED REFTEL, DR. DAVID WINTER, THE HEAD OF THE NASA DELEGATION, PROVIDED THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR, SEPTEMBER 30, THE FOLLOWING DETAILS OF THIS MEETING.

2. THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF DISCUSSION WERE THE RESULTS OF THE COSMOS 782 LIVE SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS PROVIDED BY THE US AND US SCIENCE PACKAGES FOR THE NEXT FLIGHT IN THE COSMOS SERIES

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IN 1977. THE SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS FLIGHTS FOR US

PAYLOADS ON THEIR BIOLOGICAL SATELLITES AFTER 1977, WHICH WINTER SPECULATED MAY SIGNAL A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SOVIET BIOLOGICAL SATELLITE PROGRAM AFTER NEXT YEAR. HE BELIEVES THAT IN 1978 THE SOVIETS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE PAYLOAD OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF COSMOS SPACE EXPERIMENT SATELLITES, TO INCLUDE MANNED FLIGHTS.

3. THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED A RENEWED INTEREST DURING THE MEETING IN LARGE ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS, PARTICULARLY DOGS. SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO SEND DOGS INTO SPACE UNATTENDED BECAUSE OF THE POOR CONDITION OF THOSE RETURNING FROM EARLIER SPACE EXPERIMENTS, THIS STRENGTHENS WINTER'S BELIEF THAT FUTURE SOVIET SPACE BIOLOGY FLIGHTS WILL BE ATTENDED. WINTER ALSO STATED THE SOVIETS SAID THEY ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE FRENCH THE POSSIBILITIES OF A LARGE PRIMATE BEING PART OF A BIOLOGICAL PACKAGE.

4. WINTER SAID THE U.S. BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT PACKAGES FLOWN ON THE COSMOS SERIES OF SATELLITES ARE PROVIDING THE U.S. AND SOVIETS WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SPACE FLIGHT ON LIVING ORGANISMS, AND THAT INTERESTS HAVE BEEN COMPLIMENTARY. THE SOVIETS HAVE IN THE PAST FOCUSED ON THE PSYCHO-PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF SPACE FLIGHT, WHEREAS U.S. RESEARCH IS ORIENTED TOWARDS MONITORING SUCH PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF SPACE TRAVEL AS CALSIUM LOSS, CESSATION OF BONE GROWTH, CARDIO-VASCULAR ATONICITY AND MUSCLE ATROPHY. THE SOVIETS ARE APPARENTLY TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO THESE PROBLEMS WHICH BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN LONG MANNED FLIGHTS. WINTER NOTED PARTICULARLY THE SUCCESSFUL USE BY THE SOVIETS OF SALINE INJECTIONS ON THEIR ASTRONAUTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO LANDING, A TECHNIQUE WHICH HE HOPES WILL NOW BE ADOPTED BY NASA.

5. WINTER SAID THE SOVIETS WERE VERY CIRCUMSPECT IN DISCUSSING THE PERFORMANCE OF SOYUZ 21, WHICH LANDED AUGUST 22, BUT INDIRECTLY MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE MISSION HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED DUE TO PSYCHO-PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OF THE CREW. COMMENT. THIS CONFIRMS WIDELY HELD VIEW IN THE PRESS THAT SOYUZ 21 WAS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE ITS SCHEDULED TIME IN SPACE. THE PRESS SPECULATION WAS BASED ON THE UNUSUALLY RAPID RETURN OF SOYUZ 21 TO EARTH, 3-1/2 HOURS, ITS LANDING AT NIGHT, AF FIRST; AND THE PROLONGED ABSENCE OF THE ASTRONAUTS FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

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END COMMENT.

6. WINTER ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION PASSED TO HIM ON THE SOYUZ 21 BE TIGHTLY HELD BECAUSE ITS RELEASE COULD COMPROMISE HIS APPARENTLY EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS SOVIET CONTACTS. PLEASE MAKE NO DISTRIBUTION OF THIS INFORMATION OUTSIDE OES AND SOV.

7. COMMENT. COOPERATION IN THE COSMOS PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED THE U.S. WITH THE VEHICLE FOR CONTINUING SPACE BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS OPENED AVENUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVIETS OF ALL ASPECTS OF SPACE MEDICINE AND PROVIDED AN INSIGHT INTO THEIR FUTURE PLANS. COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALSO PROVIDED NASA THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE RESULTS OF ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES AND APPLICATIONS OF SPACE MEDICINE. THE SOVIETS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY USED NEW IDEAS AND DIFFERENT METHODS FOR MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF MAN IN SPACE WHICH IF FOUND TO BE PRACTICAL FOR OUR ASTRONAUTS COULD SAVE THE U.S. TIME AND MONEY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC VISITS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, SPACE AGREEMENTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW15552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC PER MOSCOW 15993
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760371-0534
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761093/aaaadclf.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 15368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: SPACE BIOLOGY (04.05) USDEL VISIT SEPTEMBER 15-30
TAGS: TBIO, TSPA, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006